



# News Release

USDA Forest Service  
Bighorn National Forest



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## Surveys on the Mountain

When you visit the Big Horn Mountains this summer, you may see bright orange signs that say "Traffic Survey Ahead" and someone in Forest Service uniform nearby. These folks will be out in all kinds of weather waiting to interview everyone about their trip to the mountain. All of the interview information is confidential and the survey is voluntary.



**1 - A recent survey site at Hunter Trailhead**

According to Bighorn National Forest survey coordinator, Donna Wilson, "the interview gathers information about forest recreation visitors. All responses are totally confidential, in fact a person's name is never written anywhere on the survey." The basic interview lasts about 10 minutes. Some visitors are asked a few additional questions which may take an additional 5 minutes. About a third of the

recreation visitors interviewed will be asked to complete a confidential survey on recreation spending during their trip.



**2 - Donna Wilson interviews a forest visitor**

Dave McKee, Recreation Staff Officer for the Bighorn, says "everyone is asked to stop regardless of the purpose of the visit – as we are interested in the proportion of forest users involved in recreation and non-recreation visits. If you are on the Forest for work or business the interview will be very brief."

Locals are asked to stop each time they see the survey signs to help the Forest Service get a representative sample of local use as a proportion of the total use on the National Forest.

Page 1 of 2

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The information collected will tell us locally how many visitors come to Forest, how long they stay, where they come from, what activities they participate in, how much money they spend in local communities, and how satisfied they are with the quality of services provided.”

This study will be used in local and Forest planning, at the state level, and even by Congress. The more accurate information Forest managers have about the people using the Forest, especially their satisfaction and desires, the more successfully they can provide for people’s needs.

For more information about the National Visitor Use Monitoring program, visit  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum>.

Page 2 of 2

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